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A VENTURE IN DOCUMENT PUBLICITY: AN EXPERIMENT WORTH WHILE

(See p. 163)

It was then moved, seconded and carried, that a committee be appointed to gather further information during the coming year and to report at the next meeting. Mr. Meyer appointed the following committee:

Chairman, Jessie M. Woodford, in charge of Documents, Chicago Public Library; Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Circulation, Boston Public Library; Emma Hance,

Chief of Order and Accessions, Public Library, District of Columbia; Jane P. Hubbell, librarian, Rockford Public Library; Althea H. Warren, librarian, San Diego Public Library.

A rising vote of thanks was then given Miss Guerrier and Mr. Tisdell for the excellent work they had done on Library Information Service.

It was further voted to request the appointment of Mr. Tisdell, Acting Superintendent of Documents, to the position of superintendent.

The meeting then adjourned.

ROUND TABLE OF THE LIBRARIES OF RELIGION AND THEOLOGY

The annual gathering of the Round Table of Libraries of Religion and Theology occurred Saturday, June 5, at 2:45 p.m.

Dr. Charles S. Thayer, librarian of the Hartford Theological Seminary Library, presided and called for the minutes of the previous meeting which were read by the secretary, Clara M. Clark, librarian of the Bible Teachers' Training School, New York City.

Dr. William H. Cobb of Boston, who had been asked to present a paper, was unable to attend, but sent an able historical sketch of the Congregational Library of which he has been librarian since December 1887. He said: In 1853, fully nine years after Prof. E. A. Park of Andover had undertaken to arouse interest in founding such a library, only 56 books and pamphlets had been secured. Other allied interests obscured that of a library collection during many years. Its growth was hampered by the Boston fire and by financial panics so that it contained only 25,000 volumes when Dr. Cobb assumed charge. It now numbers 68,500 volumes and about 75,000 pamphlets. It co-operates in a bibliographical enterprise of interest to all librarians. Mr. G. P. Winship of the Widener Library is editing a list of such English books published before 1641 and now owned by libraries of Boston and vicinity

as may serve to illustrate in this tercentenary year the religious controversies of the Pilgrim Fathers.

In 1901, the Congregational Library was enriched greatly in the departments of history and religion by acquiring from abroad, the library of Bishop Stubbs. This contained the first 250 volumes issued by the Master of the Rolls and a multitude of antiquarian publications.

There are two precious relics side by side in the reading room: one consists of a few fragments of Plymouth Rock broken when the rock was raised in 1860; the other is a carved oaken beam from the chapel of Scrooby Manor. This very chapel, Dr. Dexter firmly believed, sheltered the Pilgrims when they formed the church, a part of which came over in the Mayflower. Only in secret could Elder Brewster gather his band in Scrooby Chapel. The Manor House was the property of the Archbishop of York. This beam symbolizes the England which the Pilgrim Fathers left. The rock fragments stand for the New England which those pilgrims subdued.

It was a great disappointment not to have the expected paper from Prof. Joseph N. Rodeheaver of the Illif School of Theology, Denver. Ill health compelled him to abandon all work for a time.

After the reading of Dr. Cobb's paper, Dr. Thayer distributed typewritten sheets giving an evaluated list of denominational periodicals. A questionnaire had been sent out to about 40 libraries of seminaries and of denominational institutions. This asked for periodical names, prices, scope, also for place and frequency of publication. Several replies to this questionnaire indicated a tendency on the part of many denominations to reduce the number of their periodicals, both their general and their missionary publications.

Interesting comments were made by Dr. Thayer upon these evaluated lists and an informal discussion followed.

Questions asked by librarians of public libraries in small communities related to the best method of securing really *valuable* religious works for the *public* library shelf.

Evidently in some libraries the religious section is filled chiefly with volumes given

wholly for sectarian interests. Thus unfair prominence is given to sects most aggressive in their propaganda and most lavish in literature for free distribution.

The need was expressed for non-controversial, non-sectarian, religious works, sound in logic, strong in pedagogy, inspirational and constructive in real character building. The suggestion was made that librarians of public libraries strive to secure from the various clergymen of their town lists of books best adapted to meet this need.

The meeting closed with the nomination of officers for the next year. The following were elected: Dr. John F. Lyons of McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, chairman; Miss Foster of the Cleveland, Ohio, Public Library, secretary.

CLARA M. CLARK, B. T. T. S.,
Secretary.

Affiliated Organizations

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

The fifteenth annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries was held at the Antlers Hotel, Colorado Springs, from June 2 to 5, with President Frederick C. Hicks, of the Columbia University Law Library, presiding.

The papers which were presented at the meeting were: President's Address, Frederick C. Hicks; "The Opening of Sealed Doors," Frank E. Chipman, president, Boston Book Company; "New York Session Laws," John T. Fitzpatrick, law librarian, New York State Library; "A Book Hunter's Search for Everlasting Fame," Conrad S. Hook, Atlantic City, N. J.; "Origin, History and Compilation of the Case-Book," Rosamond Parma, librarian, School of Jurisprudence, University of California; "History of the Social Law Library of Boston," Howard L. Stebbins, librarian; "History of the Library of the Cincinnati Law Library Association," Edwin Gholson, librarian; "Benefits of a Legislative

Reference Bureau to a State Legislature," Con P. Cronin, state librarian of Arizona; "Observations on Bar Association Reports," A. J. Small, state law librarian of Iowa.

Two of the sessions were joint sessions with the National Association of State Libraries.

The report of the Committee of New Members showed the addition of nineteen new members within the past three months, and an outline was presented for the proposed campaign for additional new members.

Franklin O. Poole gave a very thorough report on the work of the Committee on the Index to Legal Periodicals, and a motion was passed authorizing the Committee to enter into a contract with the publishers for the cumulation volume.

Mr. Frank B. Chipman explained that he would undertake the editing and publishing of another volume of the Index to Legal Periodicals.